Pradesh has also urged the Union Government to clear various schemes relating to Krishna Dsitrict which are pending with the Union Government;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have cleared them; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the State Government and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Hearing Deficiency Due to Pollution

5564. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether growing noise pollution in both the urban and rural areas in an important cause of increasing hearing deficinency in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary/preventive measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Community based data regarding noise-induced hearing deficiency in India is not avaiable. However, certain studies conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research in industries have reported noise-induced hearing deficiency.

(c) In addition to the overall pollution control strategies, noise attenuators such as ear plugs and ear muffs have been found effective as protection devices.

[Translation]

Research Centre set up by United Service Institutiion

5565. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a research centre has been set-up or proposed to be set-up by the United Service Institution to promote research and to hold discussion on defence issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the total number of benches of the centre proposed to be set-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) United Service Institution Centre for Research (USICR) was set up in 1995.

(b) The aims and objectives of United Service Institution Centre for Research are to conduct independent specialised research and study into policy problems and provide options relating to National Security issues and matters concerning the Defence Forces in an objective and non partisan manner taking into account the econmic, social, political and technological factors as obtaining in India.

(c) The USICR at present awards three fellowships annually.

Codification of Laws

5566. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to codify various laws relating to land in the country is under the consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal to codify various laws relating to land under consideration of the Government of India.

Proposal for CGWB

5567. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to make the Central Ground Water Board an autonomous institution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the stand of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In pursuance of an order of the Supreme Court, the Government have constituted the Central Ground Water Board as an Authority under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

Konar Canal Irrigation Project

5568. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :